

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A honeycomb structure comprising: a cell structural part including a plurality of cells partitioned by partition walls in a honeycomb shape to form flow paths allowing a fluid to flow therein; and an outer wall disposed on an outer peripheral surface of the cell structural part,

characterized in that an outermost peripheral cell positioned in an outermost periphery of the cell structural part and a predetermined number of cells (outer peripheral cells) positioned in an inner direction from the outermost peripheral cell among the cells are sealed by an inner peripheral surface of the outer wall in an end portion and/or an intermediate portion of at least one of the outermost peripheral cell and the outer peripheral cell in a central axis direction to form shielded cells which prevent the fluid from flowing.

16. (Currently Amended) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, wherein a thickness of the shielded ~~cell~~cells in a diametric direction of the honeycomb structure is 10% or less of an outer diameter of the honeycomb structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, wherein the cell structural part and the outer wall are constituted of ceramic materials.

18. (Previously Presented) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, wherein the cell structural part and the outer wall are constituted of metal materials.

19. (Previously Presented) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, wherein the cell structural part contains a material having an adsorption function or a catalyst function.

20. (Previously Presented) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, wherein the outer wall is constituted of a heat-resistant material.

21. (Previously Presented) The honeycomb structure according to claim 15, for use as a filter, wherein opposite end portions of the cells in the central axis direction are alternately plugged.

22. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body comprising a honeycomb structure comprising: a cell structural part including a plurality of cells partitioned by partition walls in a honeycomb shape to form flow paths allowing a fluid to flow therein; and an outer wall disposed on an outer peripheral surface of the cell structural part, wherein an outermost peripheral cell positioned in an outermost periphery of the cell structural part and a predetermined number of cells (outer peripheral cells) positioned in an inner direction from the outermost peripheral cell among the cells are sealed by an inner peripheral surface of the outer wall in an end portion and/or an intermediate portion of at least one of the outermost peripheral cell and the outer peripheral cell in a central axis direction to form shielded cells which prevent the fluid from flowing, the honeycomb structure supporting a catalyst inside the cells and/or inside the partition walls.

23. (Previously Presented) The catalyst body according to claim 22, wherein the catalyst has a function of purifying an automobile exhaust gas.

24-28. (Canceled).